



Book	Policy Manual
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Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Definitions

A student commits an offense under this policy if the student is in possession of a weapon. For purposes of this policy, a **weapon** shall include any tool, instrument or implement capable, or having the appearance of being capable, of inflicting serious bodily injury and possessed or used under circumstances not manifestly appropriate for lawful uses which it may have. The term **weapon** shall include, but shall not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, club, blackjack, metal knuckles, explosive device, firearm, shotgun, rifle or similar device from which a projectile may be discharged, including a firearm or other weapon which is not loaded or which lacks a component or device necessary to render it immediately operable, and a look-alike or replica of a weapon.[1][2]

The term **Possession** shall mean a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; and under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity or while the student is coming to or from school.[2][3]

Possession of an article which otherwise would be a weapon is justified only when the article is used in conjunction with a lawful, school supervised course, program or activity.

An alleged offense under this policy shall result in a mandatory formal hearing before the Board of School Directors (or, as authorized by the Board, a committee of the Board or hearing examiner). The Superintendent may exclude the student from school pending the hearing, in accordance with procedures and Board policy. Further disciplinary action will be determined by the Board.[4]

The standard penalty for an offense under this policy shall include expulsion from school for a period of not less than one (1) year. The penalty shall include permanent expulsion from school in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law and Board policy, where one (1) or more of the following aggravating circumstances exist:[2][4]

1. Possession of a firearm.
2. Possession of a knife or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by push-button, switch, spring mechanism or otherwise.
3. Possession of a bomb or similar explosive device, the use of which could cause serious bodily injury or property damage.

4. By use of a weapon, attempt to cause, or intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury to another.
5. By use of a weapon, attempt to put another in fear of imminent bodily injury.
6. Significant history of rules violations.

The Superintendent may recommend lesser discipline on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[10][2][5][6][7][8][9]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement officials and the district's emergency preparedness plan.[10][11][12]

In accordance with state law, acts of violence or possession of a weapon in violation of this policy shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year, by July 31.[10][13]

Guidelines

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies. [10][11][13][14][15][2]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[10][14][16]

Students, staff and parents/guardians shall be informed at least annually concerning this policy.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, who shall prescribe special conditions or procedures to be followed.[2]

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the

appropriate law enforcement agency.[17][18]

Transfer Students

When the school district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.[2]

Last Modified by Lisa M Brown on June 2, 2016